



Overview

KIPP is a non-profit network of free, public charter schools open to all students. There are 280 KIPP schools in 21 states and the District of Columbia educating 120,000 students and alumni.

KIPP origins

KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) began in 1994 with 47 fifth-graders within a public middle school in Houston, TX. The following year, two new public charter middle schools began in Houston and New York City. By 1999, these original KIPP schools were among the highest-performing schools in their respective communities.

KIPP Foundation

In 2000, Doris and Donald Fisher, founders of the Gap, committed philanthropic support to replicate the success of the original KIPP schools. The non-profit KIPP Foundation was originally established to recruit and train outstanding school leaders to open and run new KIPP schools. Today, the non-profit KIPP Foundation trains and develops outstanding educators to lead KIPP schools, provides tools, resources, and training for excellent teaching and learning, promotes innovation, and facilitates the exchange of insights and ideas within the KIPP network and with partners including districts, charters, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations across the country.

KIPP network

The first new KIPP middle schools opened as public charter schools in 2001. In 2004, KIPP opened its first elementary and high schools, which paved the way for KIPP to become a full PreK-12 school system. All KIPP schools are locally-run, non-profit organizations and are governed by a board of directors.

Ninety-five percent of the students KIPP educates are African American or Latinx. Almost 90 percent of our students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, 12 percent receive special education services, and 19 percent are designated as English Language Learners.

Our results

As part of our commitment to transparency, the KIPP Foundation publishes a national report card for all KIPP schools on an annual basis on its website. Mathematica, an independent research group, has conducted a multi-year study of KIPP schools. In 2019, Mathematica released a study **showing the impact of attending KIPP middle school could erase the racial achievement gap in four-year college enrollment rates nationwide**. Another 2015 Mathematica report found that KIPP schools have positive, statistically significant impacts on student achievement, particularly at the elementary and middle school levels.

College, career, and beyond

KIPP Forward supports alumni to and through college graduation, and even into their careers. KIPP Forward counselors support students to choose and prepare for the educational and career path that fits their goals and sense of purpose. KIPP has also forged partnerships with more than 90 colleges and universities that are committed to helping more students persevere all the way to graduation.

Nationally, KIPP alumni complete college at a rate that is comparable to the national average for all students and approximately four times the national average for students from similar economic backgrounds.